AIR POUCH
PRIORITY

CONFIDENTIAL
(Security Classification)

DO NOT TYPE IN THIS SPACE
760c.00/12-152
XR 858.411

FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM: AMEMBASSY, STOCKHOLM

499
DESP. NO.

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON

REF : None

1952 DEC 9 PM 12 33

OFFICE OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS
MESSAGE CENTER

13 For Dept. Use Only	ACTION	DEPT.	
el	EUR	INFO	OLL IBS IFI UNA/R
	REC'D DEC 6		OTHER DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE, A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY W J Colby DEC 3 - 1952 DATE 4/1/83
RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE
19 AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED ☒ RELEASABLE ☒
RELEASE DENIED ☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

SUBJECT: Latvian Exile Affairs

Several steps toward unification among Latvian exiles in Europe and in Sweden have occurred in the past few months. While both of these movements are still in their initial stages, it is believed that they offer some promise of bringing these previously conflicting groups into some accord.

I. European Center of the Latvian Liberation Committee

Local Latvian exiles have reported to this Embassy that a meeting will be held in London on December 3 - 5 to establish a "European Center" of the "Latvian Liberation Committee". This move will be an effort to establish a unified Latvian body to speak for the different Latvians and Latvian organizations in Europe. It will be attended by Latvians from Germany, England, France, Italy and Belgium and by representatives of a new central Latvian organization in Sweden.

Prominent Latvian exile figures who will attend the meeting will include Minister Karlis ZARINS, of London; Colonel V. JANUMS, leader of the Latvian veterans organization "Daugavas Vanagi", from Germany; and Bruno KALNINS, leader of the Social Democratic Party in exile, from Sweden. The meeting has been preceded by considerable efforts by Minister Zarins and other Latvians to create a friendly attitude among the different factions of Latvians in Europe. Minister Zarins made a special effort to settle the previous bad feeling which existed between himself and Bruno Kalnins and has apparently succeeded, as Kalnins will be a delegate to the London meeting. Other delegates from Sweden will include Janis ANDERSONS of the Agrarian Party and Chairman of the new central Latvian National Council in Sweden, Janis BRIEKSS of the Liberal Party, Mrs. Milda KALNAIS, widow of the former Latvian Minister to Sweden, Donats ELSTS of the Catholic Party, and Karlis DZILLEJA of the Social Democratic Party.

760C.00/12-152

RP

FILED
DEC 11 1952

WEColby/ml
REPORTER

CONFIDENTIAL

The action office must return this permanent record copy to DC/R files with an endorsement of action taken.

CONFIDENTIAL
(Classification)

The main business of the meeting will probably be the discussion and adoption of bylaws for the European Center. A draft of these bylaws has been prepared by a provisional committee working since the spring of 1952. It is anticipated that the bylaws will provide for representation of Latvians in the different countries in Europe in which they now find themselves, each country's delegation being determined by the number of Latvians therein and appointed by the central body of Latvians therein. These representatives would be supplemented by delegates appointed by the different Latvian political parties in exile.

While rather general support exists for this move toward unification, a new faction dissenting from it has appeared under the leadership of Alfreds VALDMANIS, former Minister of Finance in Latvia and now an economic advisor to the Newfoundland provincial government. Mr. Valdmanis, a gentleman of conservative tendencies, is opposing the organization on the ground of refusing to work with the Liberal and Socialist Parties in exile, and especially with Bruno Kalnins.

II. Latvian National Council in Sweden

Latvians in Sweden have also taken steps toward establishing a unified body, to be called the Latvian National Council in Sweden. On September 13, 1952, the different Latvian political and refugee organizations in Sweden met and a tentative organization was established. The officers elected were J. Andersons of the Latvian Agrarian Party representing the refugee organizations, as Chairman; B. Kalnins of the Socialist Party, J. Briekss of the Liberal Party as Vice-Chairmen; and Col. Karlis LOBE of "Daugavas Vanagi" and Professor Arveds SVABE of the Latvian National Foundation in Scandinavia as members of the board, both representing refugee organizations.

Despite this promising start, it is understood that the organization is facing some difficulties in establishing its permanent structure. It was agreed that the Council would consist of 30 representatives. There are now two contending positions as to the manner of selecting these 30. The first position, an attempt at compromise to permit organization at all, advocates the direct election of 20 by the Latvians in Sweden and the appointment of the remaining 10 by the political parties as organizational entities. The second position advocates the direct election of all 30, including those representing the political parties. In general, the conservative faction in Sweden supports the second position, and the left wing the first position. Discussions on this point at present are at somewhat of a deadlock, but it is believed possible

CONFIDENTIAL
(Classification)

that the idea of direct elections of Council representatives will be eliminated entirely. It would then become an organization of the Latvian political parties only and not represent the different welfare or cultural organizations or the entire Latvian colony in Sweden. It would still be a step of some importance, however, as the world leadership of the left wing of Latvian politics is located in Sweden in the person of Bruno Kalnins, and if he can be led to unity locally, the result will be an acceptance of unity by the other (albeit few) Latvian Social Democrats throughout the world.

For the Ambassador:

Doyle V. Martin

Doyle V. Martin
Second Secretary of Embassy

PMW